



## FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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*For Immediate Release*

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June 26, 2007  
PR-067

### *Ribbon Cutting and Groundbreaking Set*

## Park Authority Field Events Slated For This Weekend

The Fairfax County Park Authority will hold groundbreaking ceremonies this weekend at Carl Sandburg Middle School in Alexandria. This project represents the first venture into a multi-faceted partnership between the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the Park Authority Board, Fairfax County Public Schools and community youth athletic groups that will bring synthetic turf fields to schools throughout Fairfax County. The ceremony will be held this Saturday, June 30, 2007 at 11:30 a.m. Sandburg Middle School is located at 8428 Fort Hunt Road.

Synthetic turf fields are considered state-of-the-art facilities. Synthetic turf fields provide a high quality playing surface that can be utilized throughout the year and on lighted fields increases field capacity by as much as 62%. With field shortages throughout the county, they serve as a partial solution to field space concerns as well as providing great playing conditions with minimal maintenance and superior site drainage.

The field at Carl Sandburg Middle School will support both school and community use. Project costs are provided through bond funding from the Park Authority 2006 bond program which specified \$10 million to develop up to one dozen new synthetic turf fields in the community. There are currently five completed Park Authority owned synthetic turf fields in the community developed through a variety of partnerships and cost sharing ventures. An additional five are under construction. The enhanced Sandburg field is slated to open in December, 2007. Costs for this project are estimated at \$761,000.

The Park Authority will also hold ceremonies to recognize those who contributed to the development of a synthetic turf field at E.C. Lawrence Park on Saturday at 1 p.m. Ribbon cutting ceremonies celebrate the field as well as a newly completed playground at the park. E.C. Lawrence Park is located in Chantilly, VA. Take 28 north past the intersection with Walney Road. Take a left at the stoplight.

The public is welcome at both events and light refreshments will be served. For more information call 703-324-8662.

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